the malady of corruption from public life and punish those who are found guilty.

In order to look into the allegations of corruption against high public functionaries, a Lok Pal Bill has been introduced in the Parliament on 13th September, 1996. It had been referred to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs for examination and report, which has been received by the Government. To ensure greater transparency the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India have been requested to initiate steps for providing greater access to information in the organisations under their charge.

(d) The various aspects of Effective and Responsive Government were discussed in the Conference of Chief Ministers of States/UTs held on 24.5.97, with emphasis on three themes namely, accountable and citizen friendly Government, transparency and right to information and the performance and integrity of the public services.

Clarification of the term central autonomous body

2587. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Quest.on 3558 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 8th May, 1997 and State:

(a) whether the term Central Autonomous Body for the purpose of counting of service for pension on mobility of personnel between a Central Government Department and a Central Autonomous Body under DP & AR O M dated 29th August, 1984 is to be understood in terms of clarification given under O.M. No. 4 /12/85-P&PW dated 31st March, 1987; and

(b) whether the clarification of the term "Central Autonomous Body" given in the O.M dated 31st March, 1987 is in relation to the term "Central Autonomous Body" as used in used in the Ministry of Finance O.M. No. 26(18)-EV(B)/75 dated the 8th April, 1976?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S. R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The purport of this part of the Question is not clear. The policy regarding counting of past service on mobility of personnel between Central Government Departments and Central Autonomous Bodies, laid down in orders dated 29.8.1984 is self-contained and has been well defined. The definition of Central Autonomous Body has been further clarified in O M. dated 31-3-1987. Organisations like public sector banks/ Insurance Corporation were treated as Central Autonomous Bodies for the limited purpose of payment of prorata pensionary benefits to Central Government employees moving to these organisations, vide O M. No. 4/8/84 P&PW dated 14.5.1986. The policy laid down in the matter is clear and unambiguous.

Transfer of C. B. I. Officer of Special Investigation Team probing Bofors case

2588. SHRI K R. MALKANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen reports of B M Oza's book 'Bofors: The Ambassador's Evidence' on the Bofors bribe which appeared in the Pioneer, dated the 6th July, 1997;

(b) what is Government's reaction to these revelations;

(c) what is the action taken and/ or proposed to be taken in the matter by Government;

(d) the reasons why Government transferred Mr. N. R. Wasan, CBI Deputy Director and an important member of the Special Investigation Team probing the Bofors case (vide Business standard, 4th July, 1997), in violation of the P.Ms. word not to transfer any CBI Officer after Shri Joginder Singh; and

(e) whether it is in continuation of the efforts to abort the Bofors inquiry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S. R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, no comments on the news item can be offered as the case is still under investigation.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) &(b) above.

(d) Shri N. R. Wasan is still supervising RC. 1 (A)/90-ACU.IV (Bofors case).

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

Pay Commission's recommendation regarding restoration of communication of pension

2589. SHRI LAKKHIRAM AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fifth Central Pay Commission has recommended restoration of period of communication of pension from 15 years to 12 years;

(b) whether the rule of restoration of pension after 12 years is being followed in many States; and

(c) if so the reasons for not agreeing to the recommendations of the Pay Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S. R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter relating to State Covernment pensioners in the concern of the State Government and in some States the commuted portion is restored before the period of 15 years is over.

(c) The period of 15 years is based on Supreme Court Judgement as it was considered that the commuted value paid in lumpsum together with the national interest on the said amount gets, by and large, adjusted in that period. If the quantum of commutation gets increased as separately recommended by the Pay Commission, there appears to be no need to reduce the said period

Pay Commission's recommendation regarding voluntary retirement

2590. SHRI LAKKHIRAM AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fifth Central Pay Commission has recommended that voluntary retirement can be given to an employee even before completion of 20 years of service; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not agreeing to the recommendation keeping in view heavy burden on the exchequer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S. R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise